うぶめのなつ
姑獲鳥の夏
3
原作
京極夏彦
Natsuhiko Kyogoku
作画
志水アキ
Aki Shimizu
KWAI
怪

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作画 志水アキ
Aki Shimizu

The Summer of the Ubume

& KYOUGOKU NATSUHIKO
SHIMIZU AKI

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Chapter 6.....65
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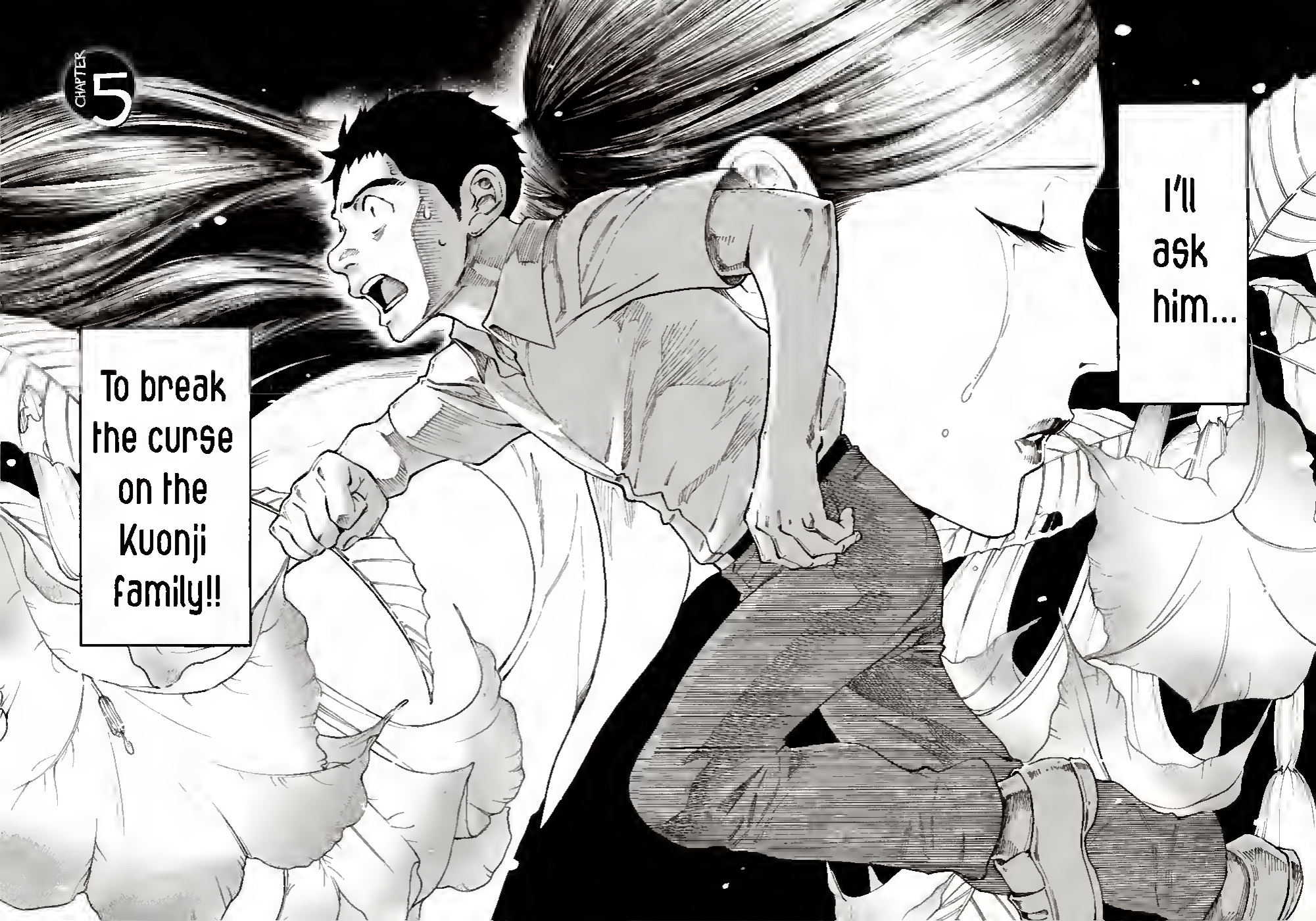
しきがない
& TRANSLATION TYPESETTING SANA

huff
huff
CHAPTER 5
huff
huff
huff
He can do it...
huff
Kyougokudou can do it!

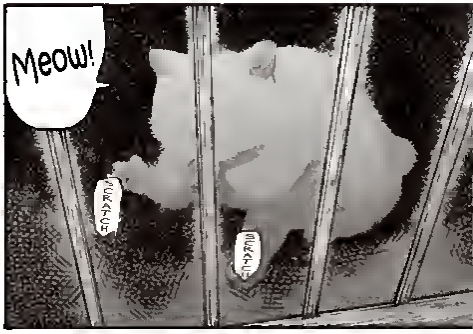

CHAPTER 5
To break the curse on the Kuonji family!!
I'll ask him...

BANG
BANG
KYOUGOKU-DOU, ARE YOU THERE!?

KYOU-GOKU-DOU!!
BANG
BANG

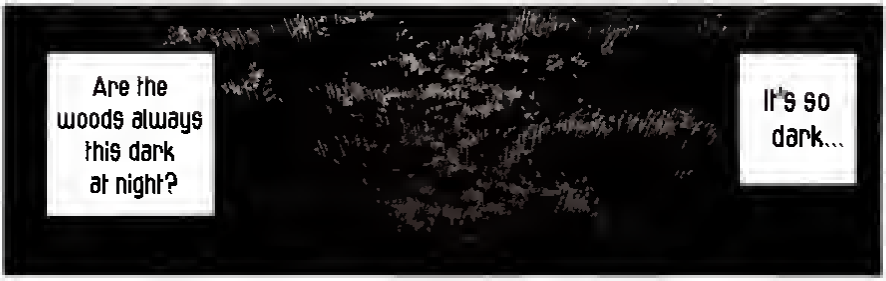
!
RATTLE
K...

He works as a Shinto priest in addition to being a bookseller. so if he's not at home or at his shop, he must be there!
DASH


Meow!
MUKUKU
MUKUKU

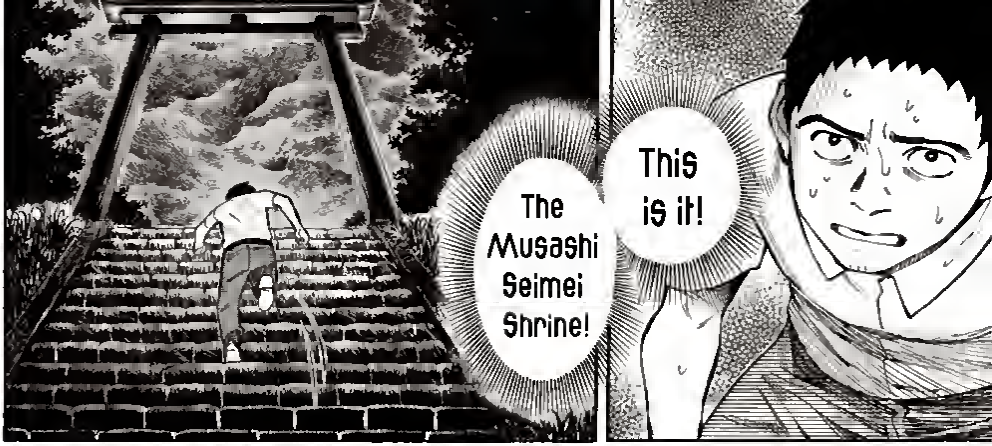
He must be at the shrine!

huff
huff

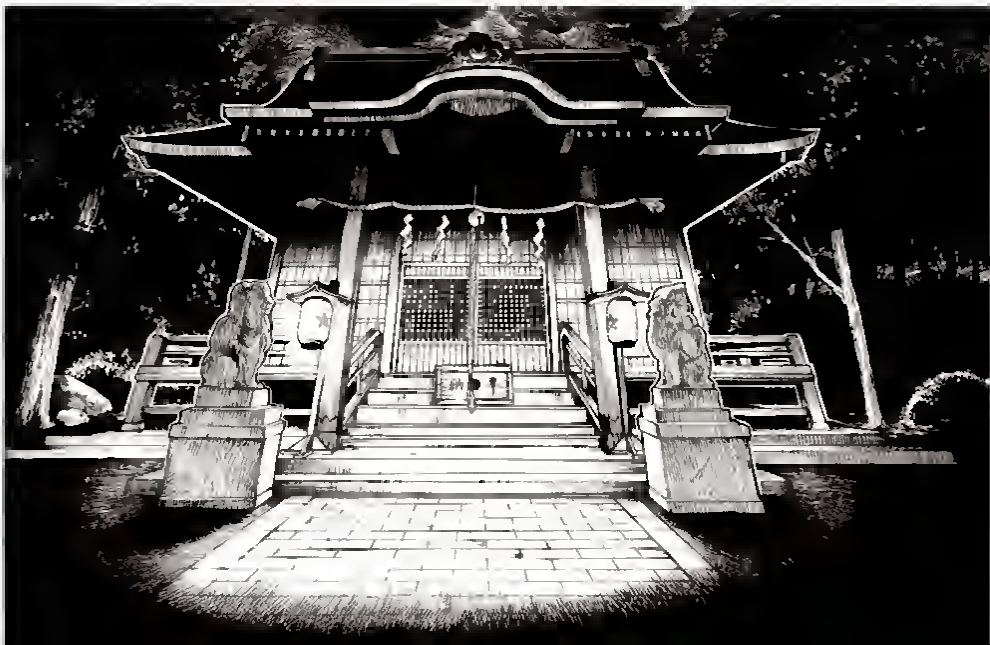

Are the woods always this dark at night?
It's so dark...

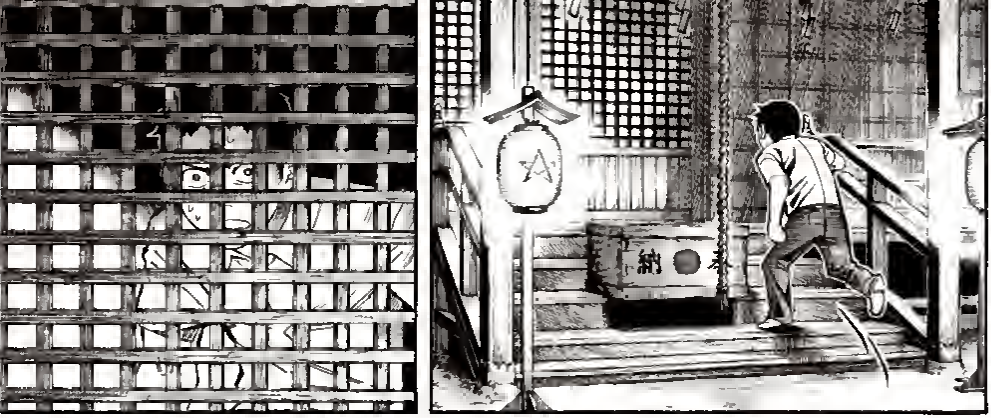
No...
Can the absence of light really change the world so much?
Maybe darkness is the world's true nature.

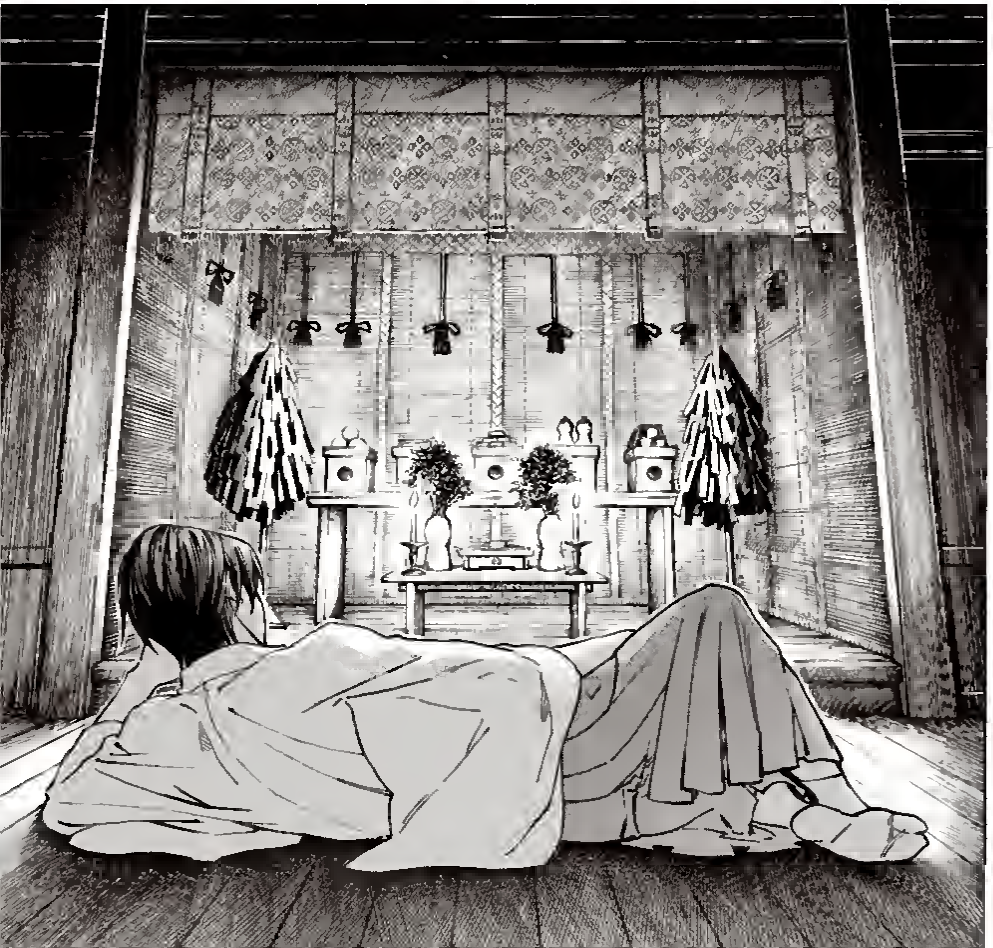
TRIP
We just close our eyes and pretend not to notice...
CRASH
huff
huff

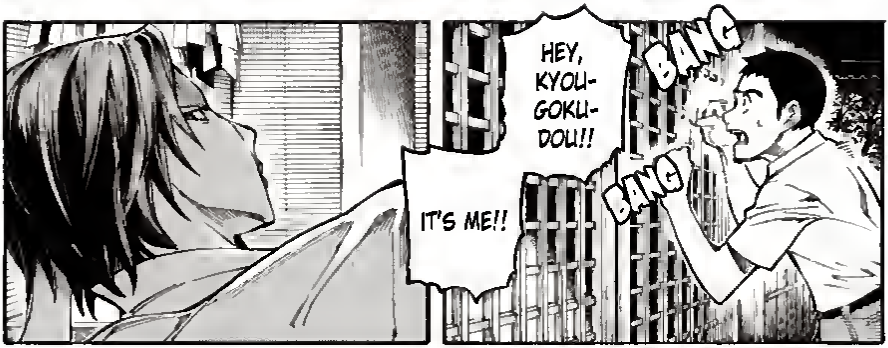

The Musashi Seimei Shrine!
This is it!

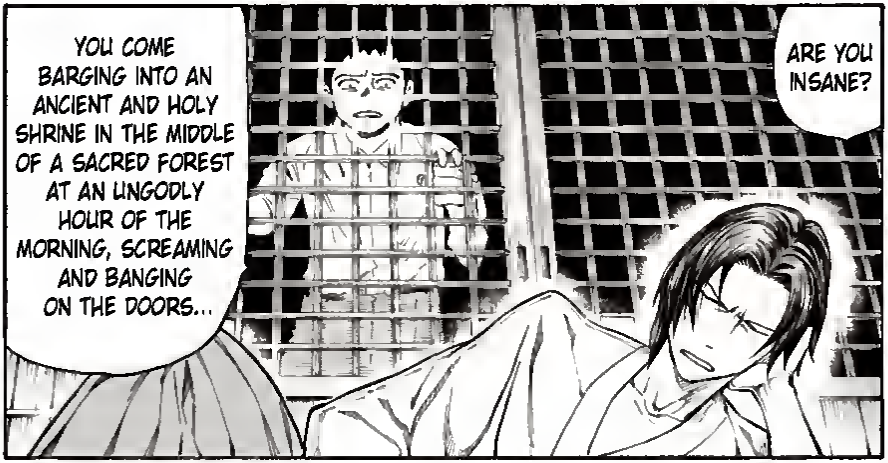
RUN
RUN

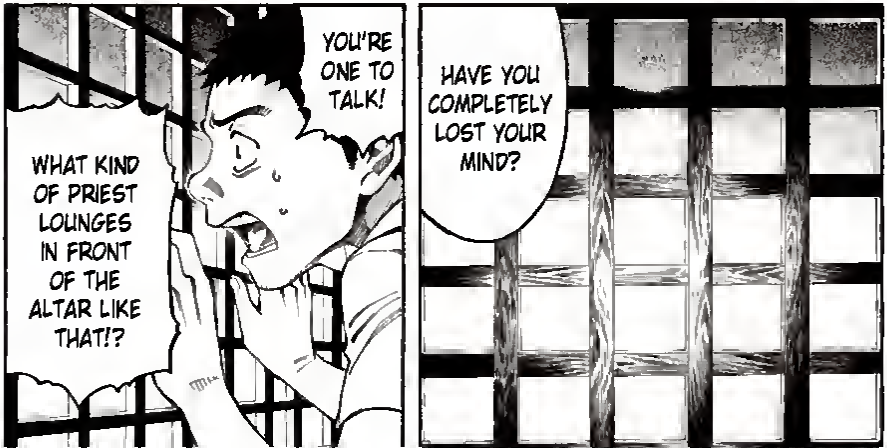



納

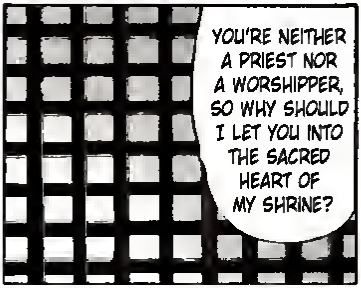



HEY, KYOU-GOKU-DOU!!
IT'S ME!!
BANG
BANG

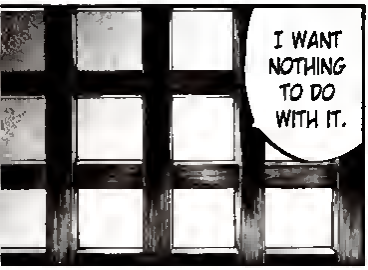

YOU COME BARGING INTO AN ANCIENT AND HOLY SHRINE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SACRED FOREST AT AN UNGODLY HOUR OF THE MORNING, SCREAMING AND BANGING ON THE DOORS...
ARE YOU INSANE?


YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!
WHAT KIND OF PRIEST LOUNGES IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR LIKE THAT!?
HAVE YOU COMPLETELY LOST YOUR MIND?

YOU CAN SIT WITH YOUR LEGS CROSSED LIKE A ZEN MONK AND STILL HAVE BLASPHEMY IN YOUR HEART, BUT IF YOU HAVE REAL FAITH, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE IN YOUR UNDERWEAR.
HMPH
FAITH IS ABOUT SUBSTANCE, NOT STYLE.
THIS IS A PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE POSE OF HUMILITY BEFORE THE GODS.

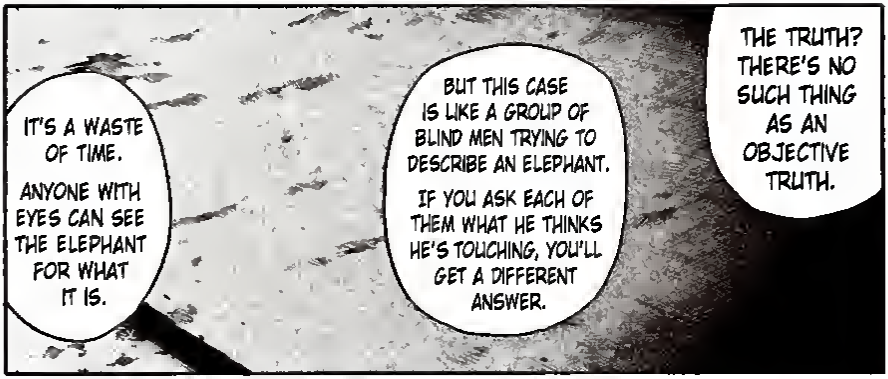

YOU'RE NEITHER A PRIEST NOR A WORSHIPPER, SO WHY SHOULD I LET YOU INTO THE SACRED HEART OF MY SHRINE?

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT RELIGION!
PLEASE, JUST LET ME IN!


I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

BUT KYOUGOKU-DOU...
DOES THIS MEAN YOU'VE FIGURED OUT THE TRUTH?

NOPE.
IF THIS IS ABOUT THE KUONJIS, THEN COUNT ME OUT.
THEN YOU CAN JUST COME OUT!


IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
ANYONE WITH EYES CAN SEE THE ELEPHANT FOR WHAT IT IS.
BUT THIS CASE IS LIKE A GROUP OF BLIND MEN TRYING TO DESCRIBE AN ELEPHANT.
IF YOU ASK EACH OF THEM WHAT HE THINKS HE'S TOUCHING, YOU'LL GET A DIFFERENT ANSWER.
THE TRUTH? THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN OBJECTIVE TRUTH.

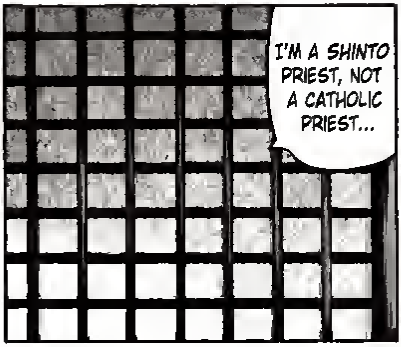
GLARE

BUT SEKIGUCHI, YOU'RE LOOKING RIGHT AT THE ELEPHANT AND YOU CAN'T SEE IT.
IT'S TIME TO LET THIS GO.

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TREAT ME LIKE I'M AN IDIOT!?
WHAT IS IT THAT I'M NOT SEEING!?
I'M NOT CRAZY!!
I...

JUST CALM DOWN AND OPEN YOUR EYES!
SHOCK

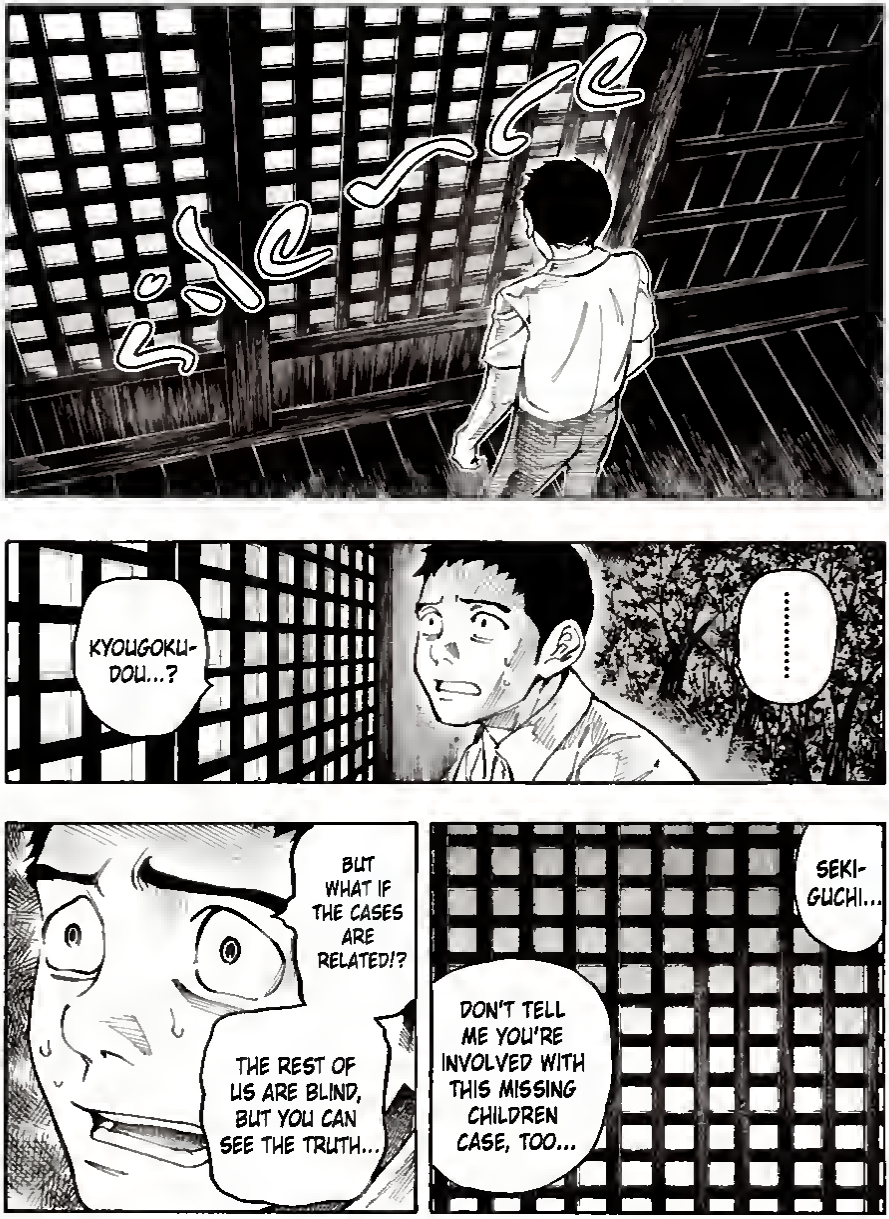
...YOU KNOW, I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT YOU MIGHT REALLY BE CRAZY.


I'M A SHINTO PRIEST, NOT A CATHOLIC PRIEST...

CLOSE ENOUGH!
YESTERDAY, I MET THE FATHER OF ONE OF THE CHILDREN WHO DIED AT THE KUONJI HOSPITAL, AND...

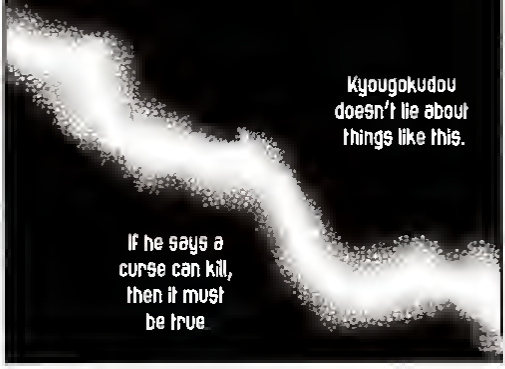
OH, SURE, I'M THE CRAZY ONE!
AND I GUESS YOU AND ENOKIZU ARE PERFECTLY SANE!?
YOU'RE A PRIEST, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, I NEED TO MAKE A CONFESSION!

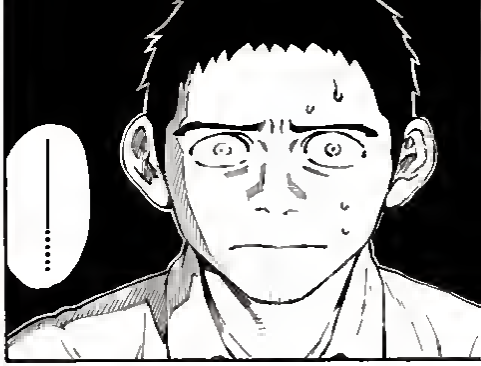
THAT SHE WANTED TO BREAK THE CURSE ON THE KUONJI FAMILY...
...AND THEN RYOUKO-SAN SAID...


KYOUGOKU-DOU...?
.....
SEKI-GUCHI...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH THIS MISSING CHILDREN CASE, TOO...
BUT WHAT IF THE CASES ARE RELATED!?
THE REST OF US ARE BLIND, BUT YOU CAN SEE THE TRUTH...

GASP
Wait...
BUT THE ONLY MYSTERY THAT CONCERNS ME... IS WHY YOU'RE ACTING LIKE THIS.
WELL, I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY SEEN THE SCENE OF THE CRIME YET.
WAIT, KYOU-GOKUDOU, YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS!
Just look at this!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

ARE YOU SAYING THAT CURSES REALLY DO EXIST?
A VOODOO DOLL? BUT WHY?
ALTHOUGH THIS SORT OF CURSE IS HORRIBLY OLD-FASHIONED.
HUH? IT'S CALLED AN "ENMI"... IT'S LIKE A VOODOO DOLL.
OH, CURSES EXIST. AND THEY WORK.
CURSES ARE ARBITRARY WORDS AND SYMBOLS THAT ARE GIVEN POWER BY CULTURAL BELIEFS.
WHEN THAT POWER IS POSITIVE, WE CALL IT A "CHARM." BUT WHEN IT'S NEGATIVE, WE CALL IT A "CURSE."
WELL, A CURSE CAN BE VERY EFFECTIVE WITHIN A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO SHARE A LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.
YOU COULD EVEN SAY THAT A CURSE IS LIKE A TIME BOMB SET IN PEOPLE'S BRAINS.
IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE TO KILL SOMEONE WITH A CURSE?
GULP


Kyougokudou doesn't lie about things like this.
If he says a curse can kill, then it must be true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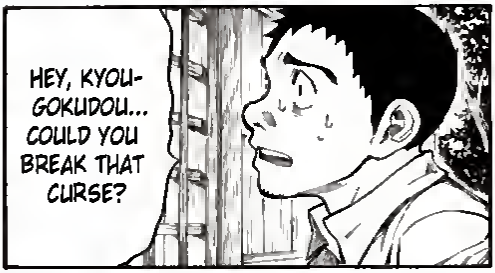
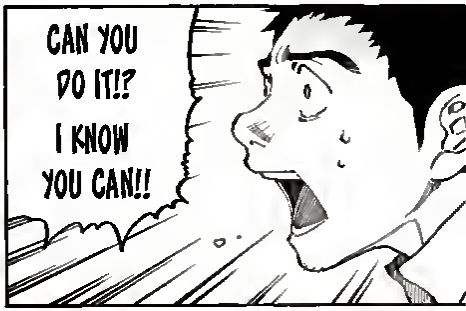
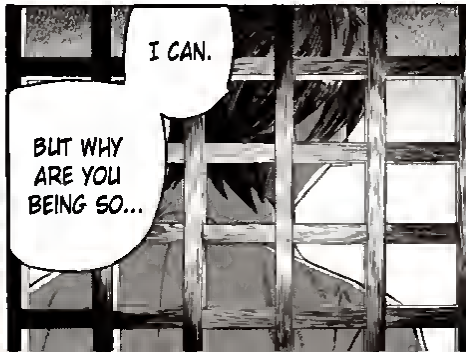
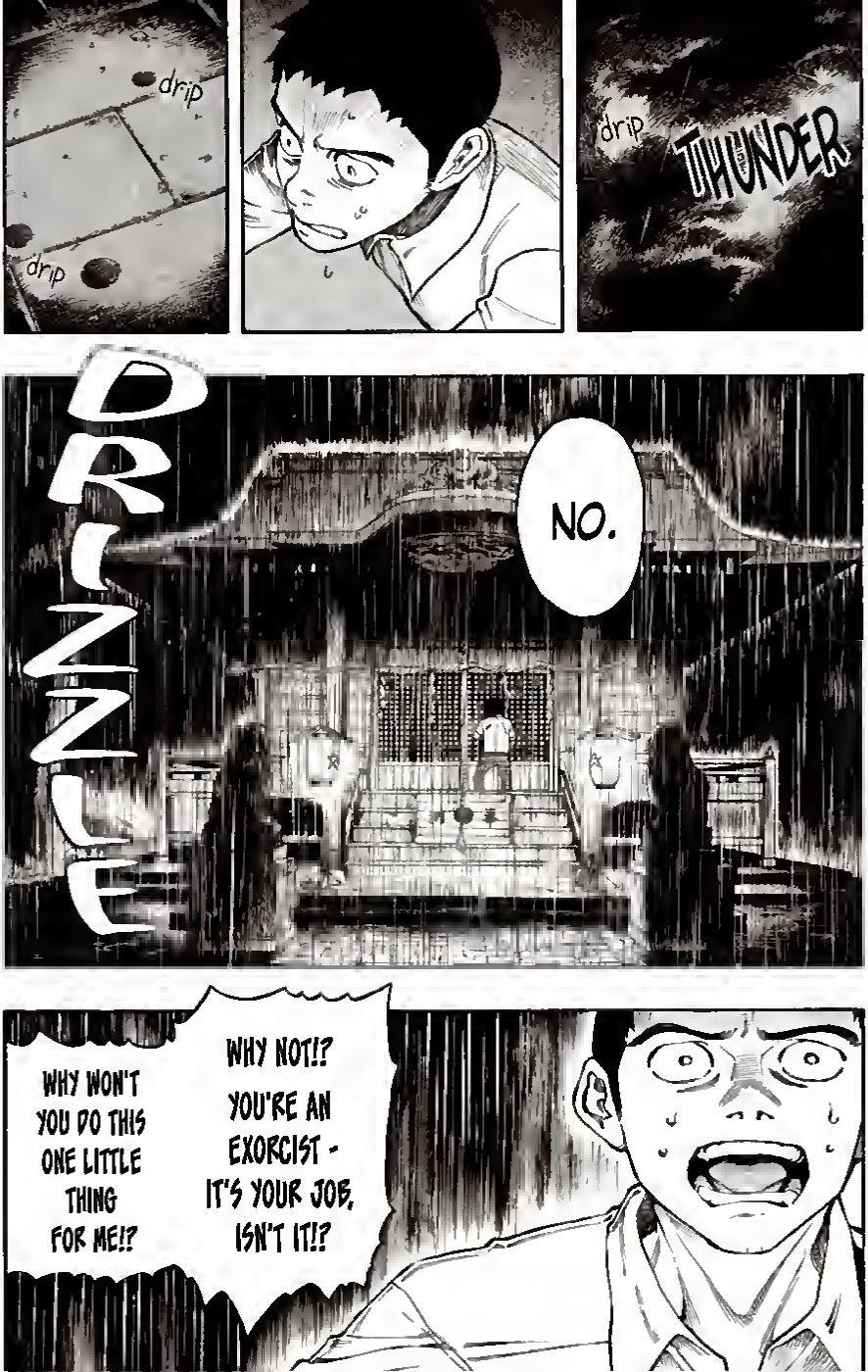

HEY, KYOU-GOKUDOU... COULD YOU BREAK THAT CURSE?

THUNDER
PLEASE, KYOUGOKU-DOU!!


CAN YOU DO IT!?
I KNOW YOU CAN!!


I CAN.
BUT WHY ARE YOU BEING SO...

BREAK THE CURSE ON THE KUONJI FAMILY!!
CRASH

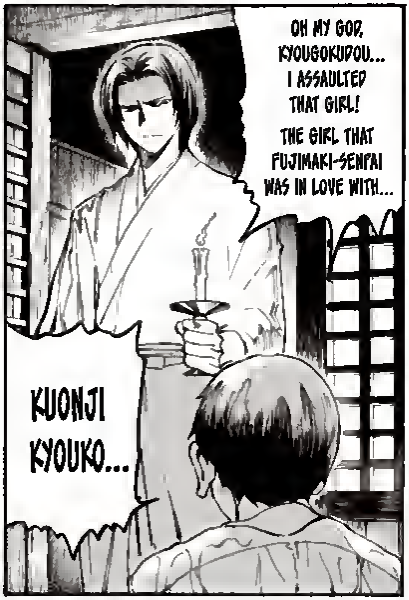

drip
drip
drip
THUNDER
DRENCHED
NO.
WHY WON'T YOU DO THIS ONE LITTLE THING FOR ME!?
WHY NOT!?
YOU'RE AN EXORCIST - IT'S YOUR JOB, ISN'T IT!?

SHOUT
WHAT'S SO STUPID ABOUT IT!?
MY ADVICE IS FOR YOU TO STAY OUT OF THIS STUPID MESS AND LET THINGS WORK THEMSELVES OUT.
LISTEN TO ME, SEKIGUCHI.
I DON'T WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PEOPLE DYING OR GETTING HURT.
DRIZZLE
I MEAN IT!!
KYOUGOKUDOU, PLEASE!
I WON'T LEAVE UNTIL YOU HELP ME!

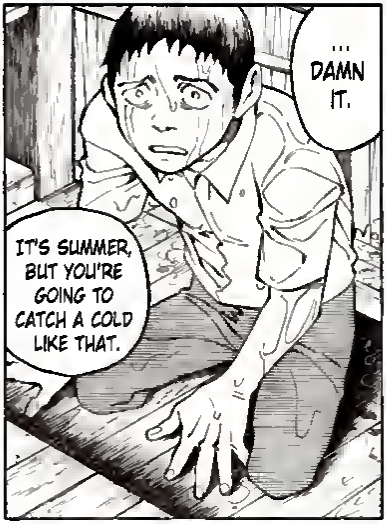
THAT BOY IS CRAZY!
DRIZZLE
DRIZZLE
Back then...
Will you play with me?
Back then, why was I so afraid of that girl...?

Back then...
At the entrance to the hospital...

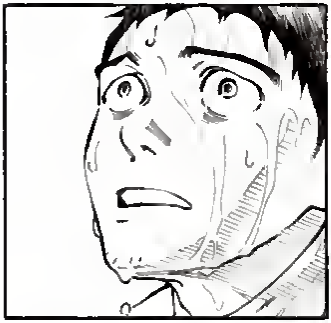
THAT'S ENOUGH.
YOUR HALF-REMEMBERED DELUSIONS FROM 12 YEARS AGO AREN'T RELEVANT NOW.

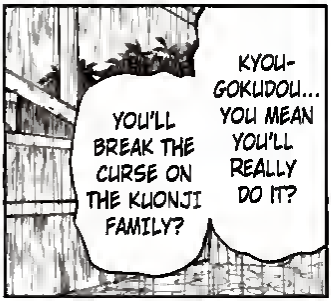

OH MY GOD, KYOUGOKUDOU... I ASSAULTED THAT GIRL!
THE GIRL THAT FUJIMAKI-SENPAI WAS IN LOVE WITH...
KUONJI KYOUKO...

CREAK
GASP


... DAMN IT.
IT'S SUMMER, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD LIKE THAT.

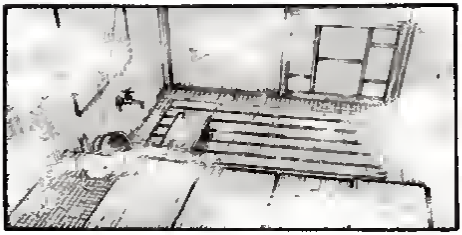
I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS AN EXORCISM.
BUT I...

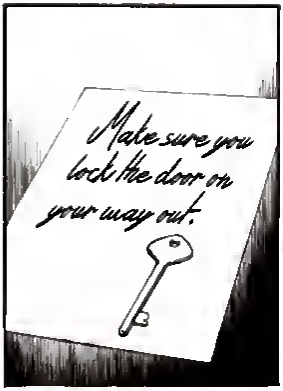


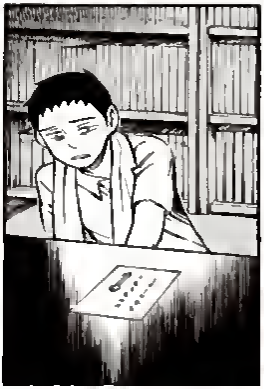

KYOU-GOKUDOU... YOU MEAN YOU'LL REALLY DO IT?
YOU'LL BREAK THE CURSE ON THE KUONJI FAMILY?

FINE, I'LL DO IT.
BUT MY SERVICES AREN'T CHEAP.

I WANT YOU TO GATHER THE KUONJIS AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO'S INVOLVED IN THE NEXT ROOM.
ON SEVERAL CONDITIONS.
EXCEPT FOR TOKIZOU AND HIS WIFE, I DON'T NEED THEM.
FIRST, I CHOOSE THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE EXORCISM. 8 O'CLOCK TONIGHT, IN THE ROOM WHERE FUJIMAKI DISAPPEARED.
AND I WANT A DOCTOR TO BE THERE. SATOMURA-KUN, THE MEDICAL EXAMINER, SHOULD BE FINE.
I ALSO WANT YOU TO CALL KIBA AND HAVE HIM SECRETLY BRING TWO OR THREE PLAINCLOTHES OFFICERS.
I DON'T WANT ANYONE DYING BECAUSE OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO.
POLICE? BUT WHY...?
TO CATCH ANYONE WHO TRIES TO RUN, OBVIOUSLY.




Make sure you lock the door on your way out.



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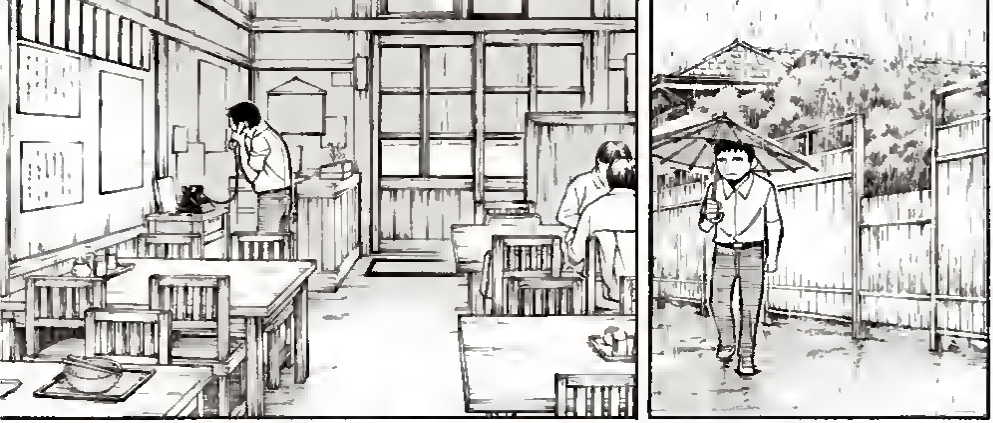
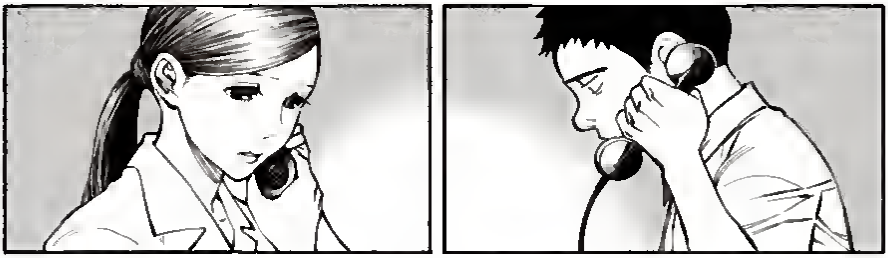
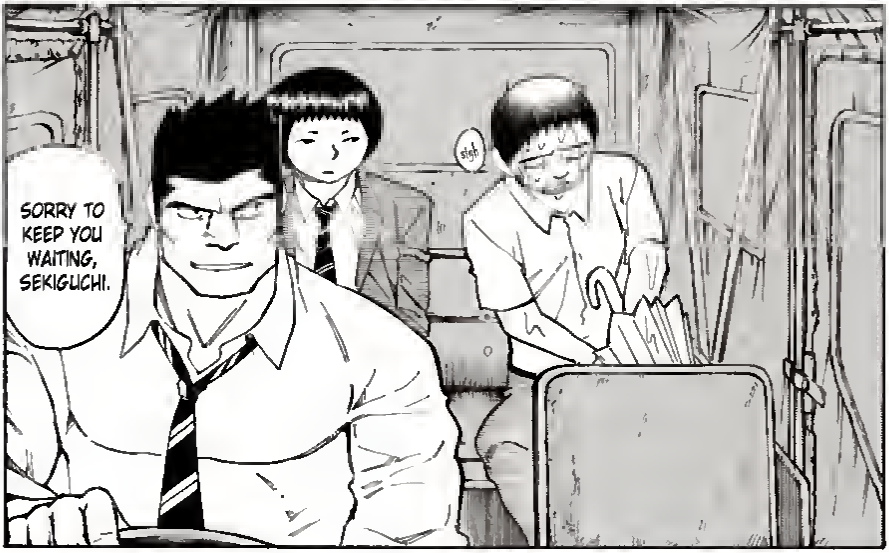
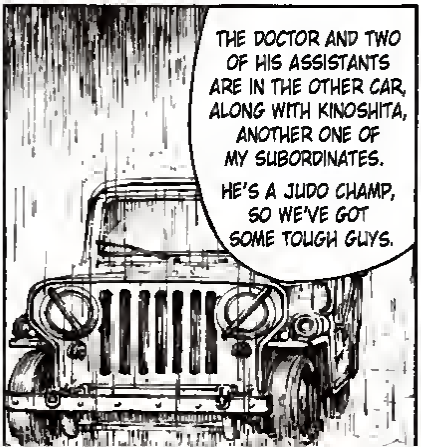
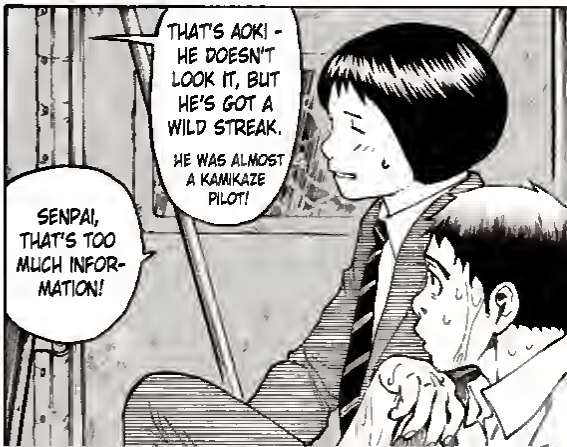




I FOUND AN ONMYOUJI.
I'M BRINGING HIM TO THE HOSPITAL TONIGHT.


SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, SEKIGUCHI.
sigh

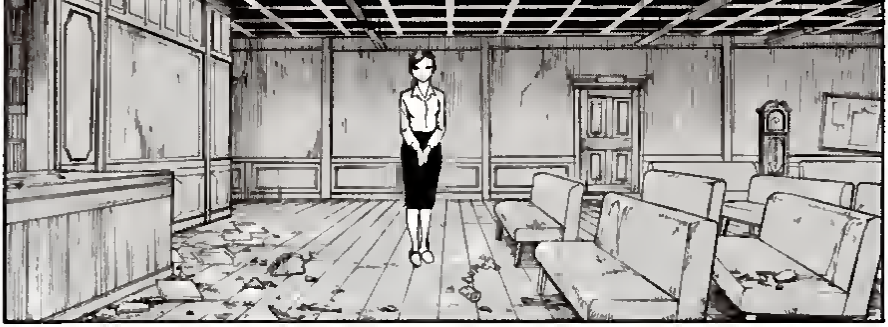

THE DOCTOR AND TWO OF HIS ASSISTANTS ARE IN THE OTHER CAR, ALONG WITH KINOSHITA, ANOTHER ONE OF MY SUBORDINATES.
HE'S A JUDO CHAMP, SO WE'VE GOT SOME TOUGH GUYS.

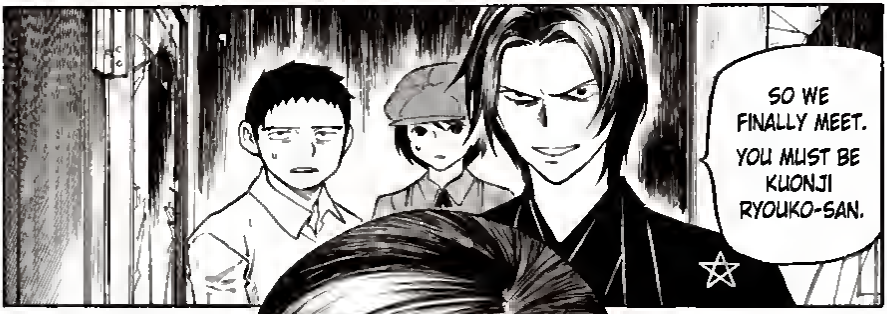

THAT'S AOKI - HE DOESN'T LOOK IT, BUT HE'S GOT A WILD STREAK.
HE WAS ALMOST A KAMIKAZE PILOT!
SENPAI, THAT'S TOO MUCH INFORMATION!

...AND HERE COMES THE DEVIL HIMSELF.

DRIZZLE
DRIZZLE

DRIZZLE
CREAK




SO WE FINALLY MEET. YOU MUST BE KUONJI RYOUKO-SAN.

AND YOU MUST BE THE ONMYOUJI...
CAN YOU REALLY BREAK MY FAMILY'S CURSE?

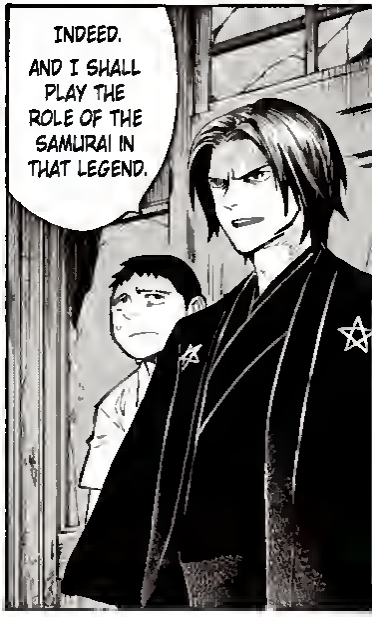
THE "UGUME" IS A BIRD-DEMON OF THE FORESTS...
OH, THAT'S A LINE FROM "ONE HUNDRED STORIES FROM MANY LANDS," ISN'T IT?

"THE CREATURE WHO FILLS MEN'S HEARTS WITH TERROR BEYOND COMPREHENSION."
OR SO THEY SAY.

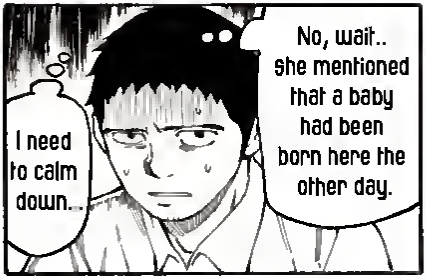
THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE COME TO EXORCISE THE UBUME THAT'S BEEN PLAGUING YOUR FAMILY.
THE UBUME?

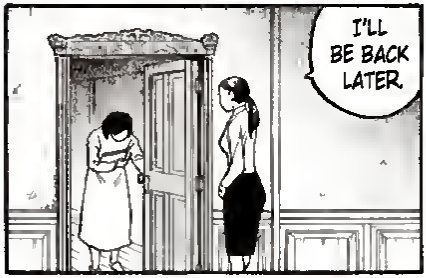
THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE.

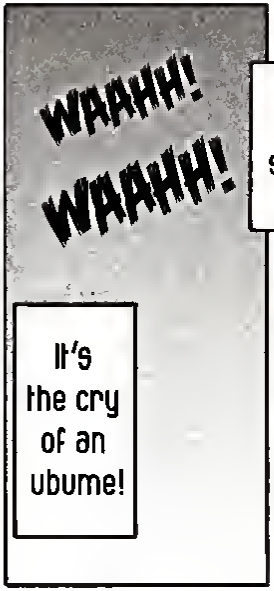
SO YOU'LL CUT DOWN THE UBUME TO FIND THAT IT WAS ONLY A NIGHT HERON ALL ALONG?
AH, BUT WHAT IF IT REALLY IS A DEMON?

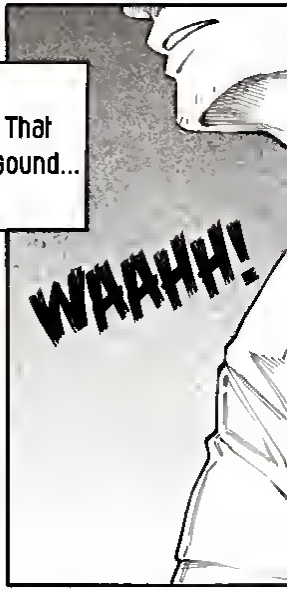

INDEED. AND I SHALL PLAY THE ROLE OF THE SAMURAI IN THAT LEGEND.

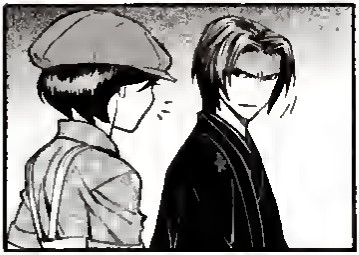
I can't help but feel...
WAAHH! WAAHH!!
.....
That the two of them should never have been brought together..
WAAHH!!
And certainly not in this cursed place...
WAAHH!!


I need to calm down...
No, wait.. she mentioned that a baby had been born here the other day.

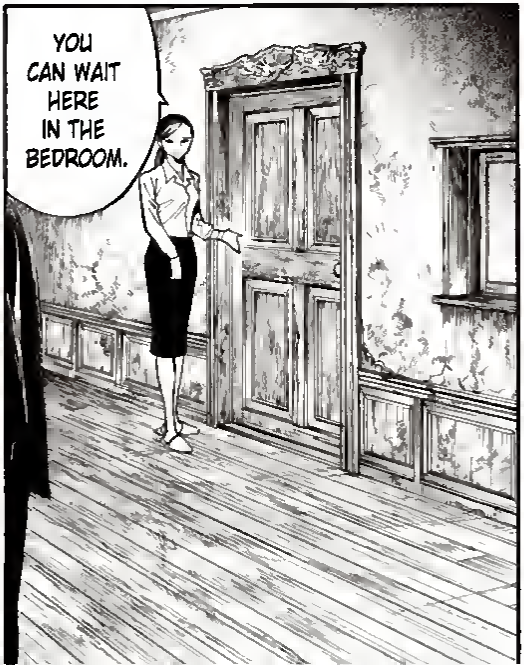

I'LL BE BACK LATER.


WAAHH!
WAAHH!
It's the cry of an ubume!

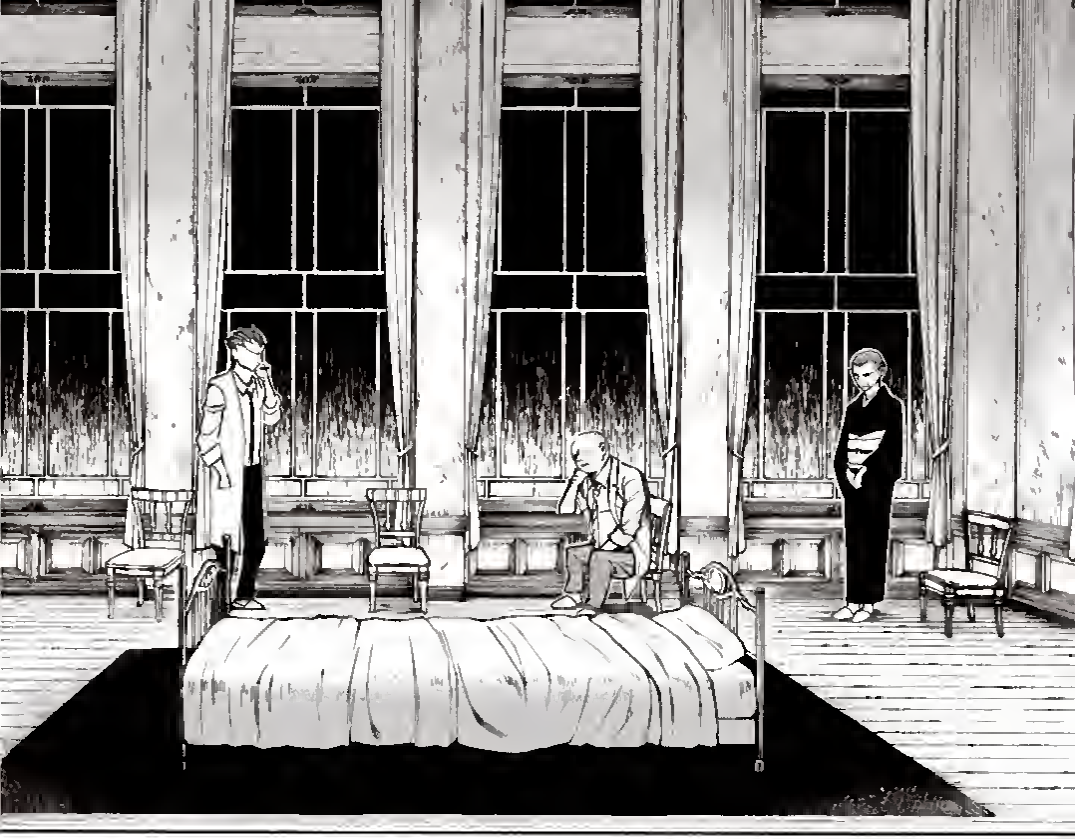

That sound...
WAAHH!

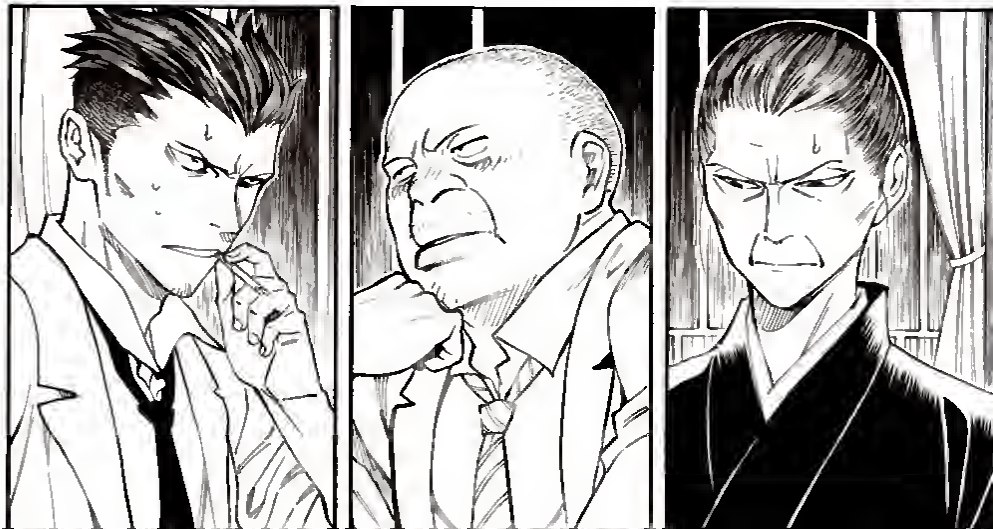


POOF!!

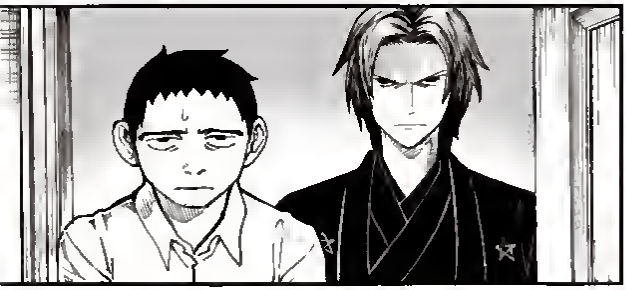

YOU CAN WAIT HERE IN THE BEDROOM.

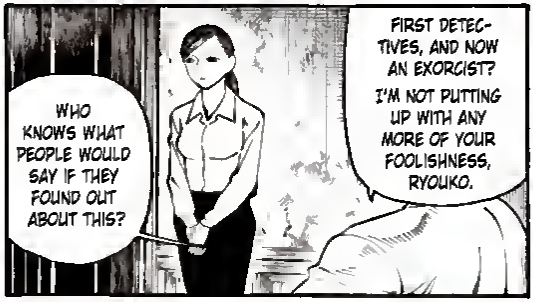
I bet she's going to unlock the back door for the cops.
Should I go first...?
Everyone else must be there already... what a tense atmosphere...
TURN

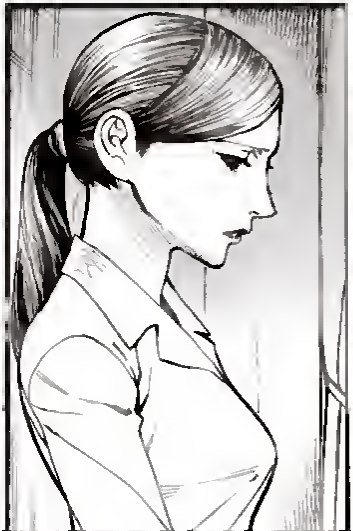


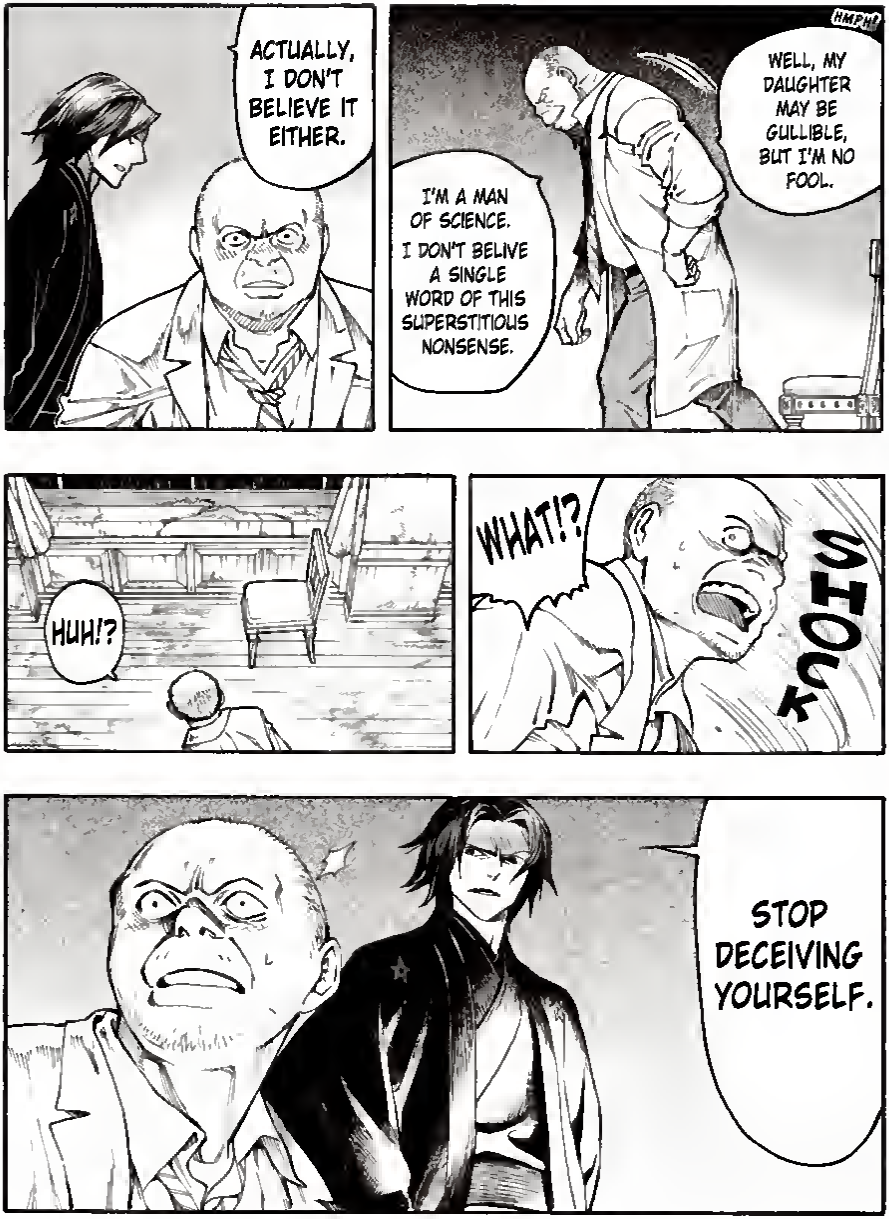


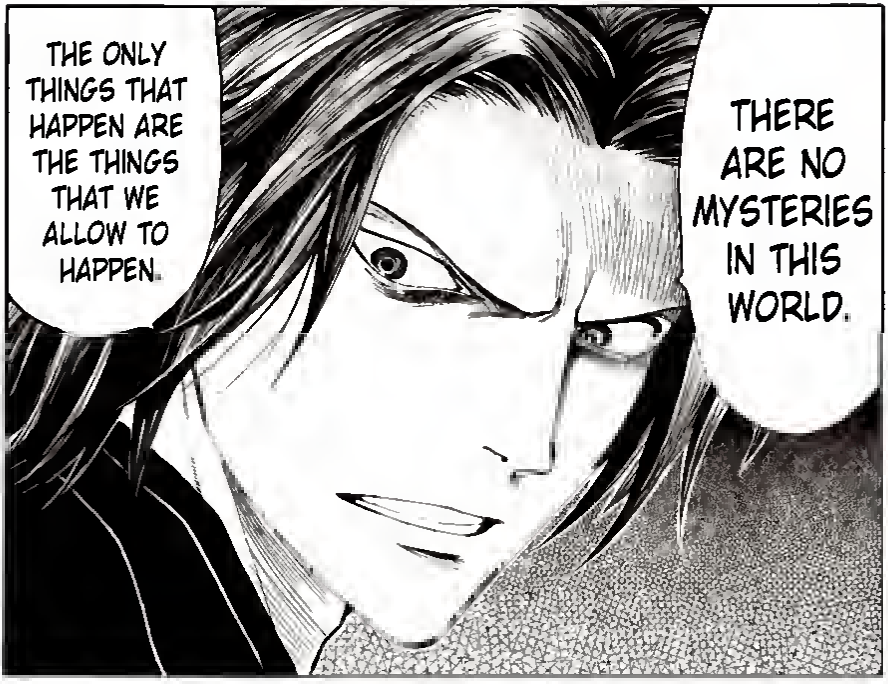
OH, AREN'T YOU THAT DETECTIVE FROM THE OTHER DAY?
IS THAT THE ONMYOUJI?

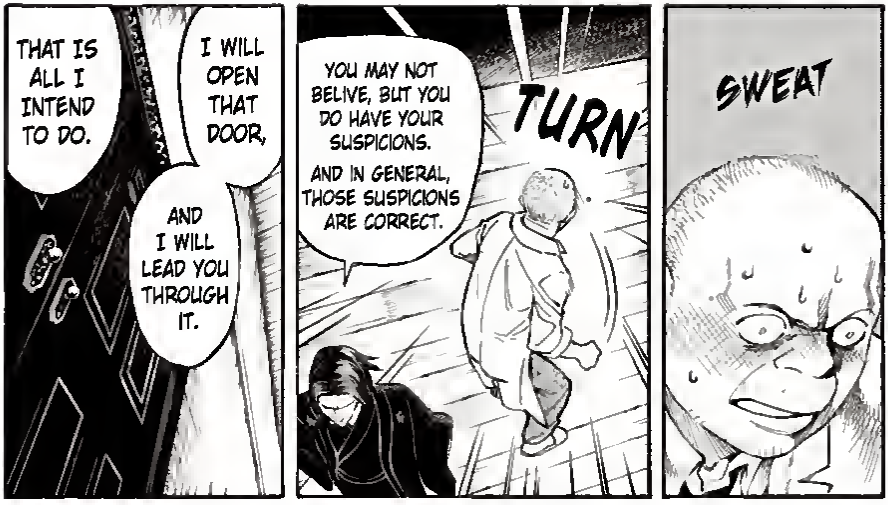


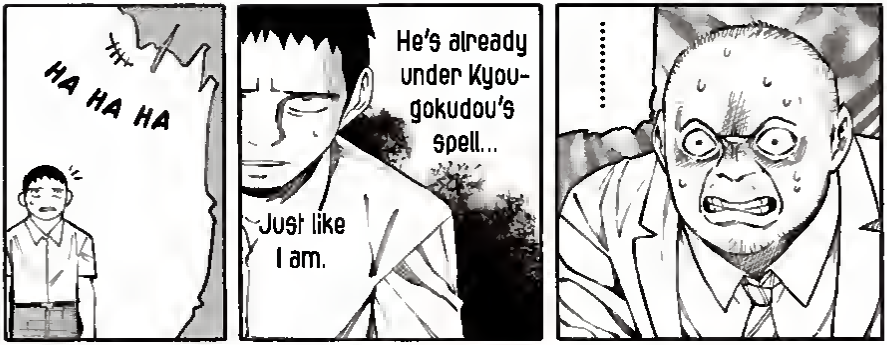

FIRST DETECTIVES, AND NOW AN EXORCIST?
I'M NOT PUTTING UP WITH ANY MORE OF YOUR FOOLISHNESS, RYOUKO.
WHO KNOWS WHAT PEOPLE WOULD SAY IF THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS?

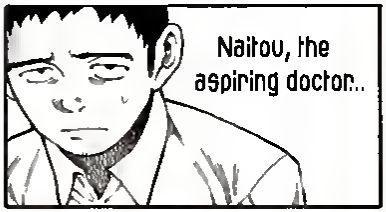


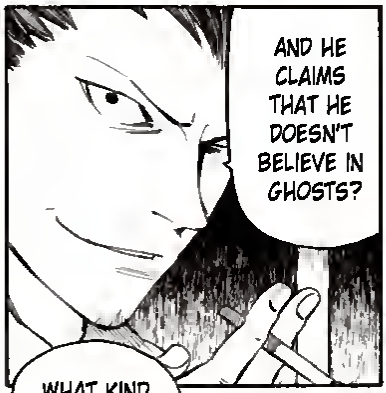

ACTUALLY, I DON'T BELIEVE IT EITHER.
HMPH!
WELL, MY DAUGHTER MAY BE GULLIBLE, BUT I'M NO FOOL.
I'M A MAN OF SCIENCE. I DON'T BELIVE A SINGLE WORD OF THIS SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE.
HUH!?
WHAT!?
SIOUX
STOP DECEIVING YOURSELF.

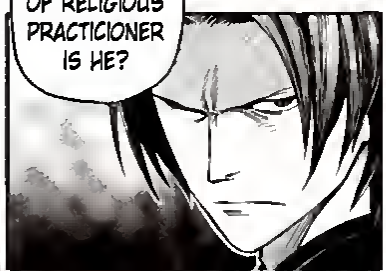

THE ONLY THINGS THAT HAPPEN ARE THE THINGS THAT WE ALLOW TO HAPPEN.
THERE ARE NO MYSTERIES IN THIS WORLD.


THAT IS ALL I INTEND TO DO.
I WILL OPEN THAT DOOR,
AND I WILL LEAD YOU THROUGH IT.
YOU MAY NOT BELIVE, BUT YOU DO HAVE YOUR SUSPICIONS.
AND IN GENERAL, THOSE SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT.
TURN
SWEAT


HA HA HA
He's already under Kyougokudou's spell...
Just like I am.
.....


Naitou, the aspiring doctor...


AND HE CLAIMS THAT HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?


WHAT KIND OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICIONER IS HE?

WELL, ISN'T THIS INTERES-TING?
RYOUKO-SAN CERTAINLY DOES KEEP STRANGE COMPANY.
FIRST A DETECTIVE DRESSED LIKE A FIGHTER PILOT, AND NOW AN EXORCIST IN AN OLD-FASHIONED KIMONO

AND CHRISTIANITY MERELY STATES THAT THOSE WHO DIE WITHOUT BEING BAPTISED WILL GO TO HELL, AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH WILL GO TO HEAVEN.
SO THERE IS NO PLACE FOR GHOSTS IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, EITHER.
IS IT SO STRANGE? BUDDHISTS BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION, AND THE DEAD ARE REBORN INTO ONE OF THE SIX REALMS WITHOUT FAIL.
SO BUDDHISM DOES NOT ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF GHOSTS.
I SUPPOSE IT'S ONLY NATURAL - AFTER ALL, RELIGION IS FOR THE LIVING, NOT FOR THE DEAD.
NONE OF THE THREE MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF GHOSTS.
ISLAM IS A BIT DIFFERENT - ONE MUST FOLLOW THE KORAN AND LIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALLAH'S WILL IN ORDER TO GO TO HEAVEN - BUT REGARDLESS, ALL SOULS GO SOMEWHERE.

SO, ONE COULD EVEN SAY THAT GHOSTS ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH TRUE RELIGIOUS BELIEF.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, NAITOU-SAN?

BUT IN ANY CASE, I'M NOT REALLY A TRUE BELIEVER.
JUST LIKE YOU'RE NOT REALLY A DOCTOR.

I ALREADY TOLD YOU.
I'M JUST HERE TO LEAD THE REST OF YOU THROUGH THAT DOOR.
WHY ARE YOU HERE!?
GASP
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE TO BREAK THE KUONJI CURSE, BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN A PRIEST!

AND ANYWAY, MAKIO-KUN IS STILL ALIVE!
WHAT THE HELL DO WE NEED AN EXORCIST FOR!?

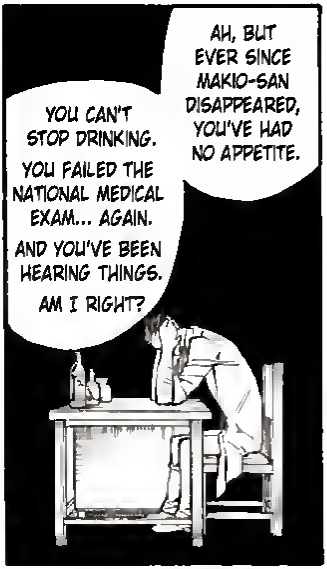
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, BUT I ACTUALLY PREFERRED THE FREAKY DETECTIVE GUY!
RYOUKO-SAN, I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
I'M NOT STAYING FOR SOME SKETCHY EXORCISM!

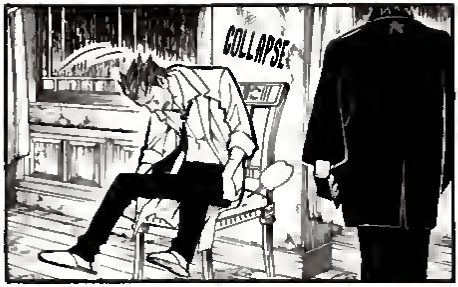
GULP

BUT THERE'S LITTLE DOUBT...
WHAT!? DAMN YOU...
EVEN THOUGH PART OF YOU WANTS HIM DEAD, YOU NEED HIM TO BE ALIVE...
YOU WANT HIM TO BE ALIVE, DON'T YOU?
MAKIO-SAN IS ALMOST CERTAINLY DEAD.

AND HIS SPIRIT IS POSSESSING YOU, NAITOU-SAN.
THAT'S RIGHT.
DEAD ...?
F...
FUCK YOU!
YOU DON'T KNOW ME!!!
ALL I SAID WAS THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS.
BUT FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO DOES BELIEVE, GHOSTS CAN HAVE VERY REAL EFFECTS.
QUIT TRYING TO FUCK WITH MY HEAD!!
BUT...
BUT YOU JUST SAID THAT GHOSTS DON'T EXIST!!

IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN POSSESSED.


AH, BUT EVER SINCE MAKIO-SAN DISAPPEARED, YOU'VE HAD NO APPETITE.
YOU CAN'T STOP DRINKING.
YOU FAILED THE NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAM... AGAIN.
AND YOU'VE BEEN HEARING THINGS.
AM I RIGHT?


COLLAPSE

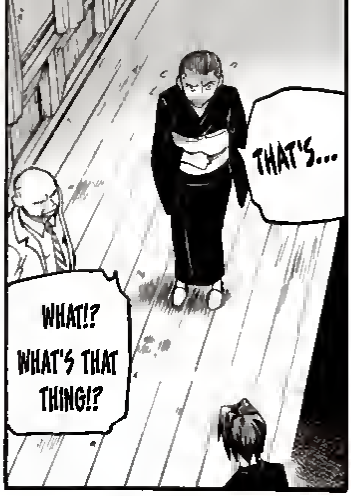
.....!!

THAT'S ENOUGH!!

Now Naitou is under the spell too...

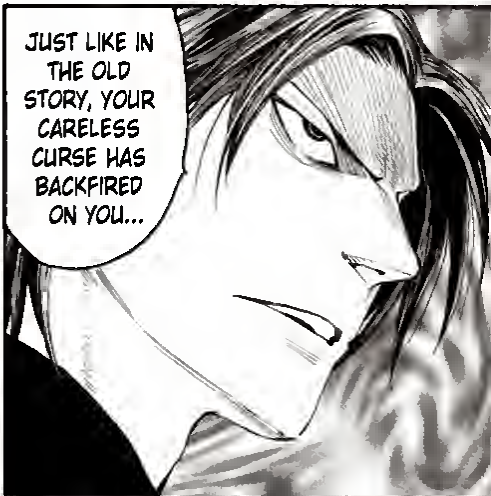
SENSEI!
HUH?
SORRY!
I DON'T INTEND TO DO ANY-THING.
UNLIKE YOU, I DON'T DABBLE IN MAGIC TRICKS.
MAGIC TRICKS!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
FIRST YOU CLAIM TO BE AN EXORCIST, AND THEN YOU SAY THAT YOU DON'T EVEN BELIEVE IN GHOSTS!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE IN MY HOUSE...
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE NEXT ROOM!!
!!
YOU TRIED TO USE A SHIKI TO CAST A CURSE, BUT NOW YOUR OWN SHIKI HAS TURNED ON YOU.
DON'T PRETEND THAT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS.

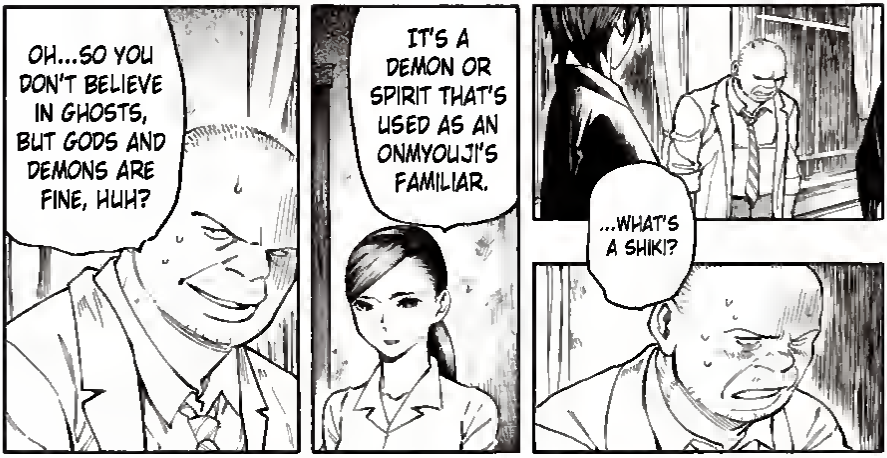
IT'S SAID THAT THE KUONJI FAMILY HAS A HISTORY OF USING SPIRITS AS FAMILIARS... INDEED, THE KUONJIS THEMSELVES WERE ONMYOUJI.

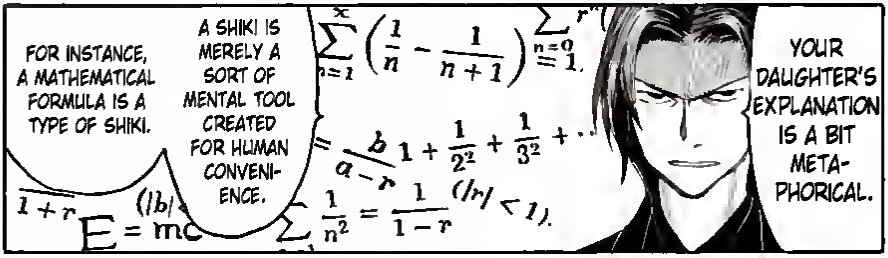

THAT'S...
WHAT!? WHAT'S THAT THING!?

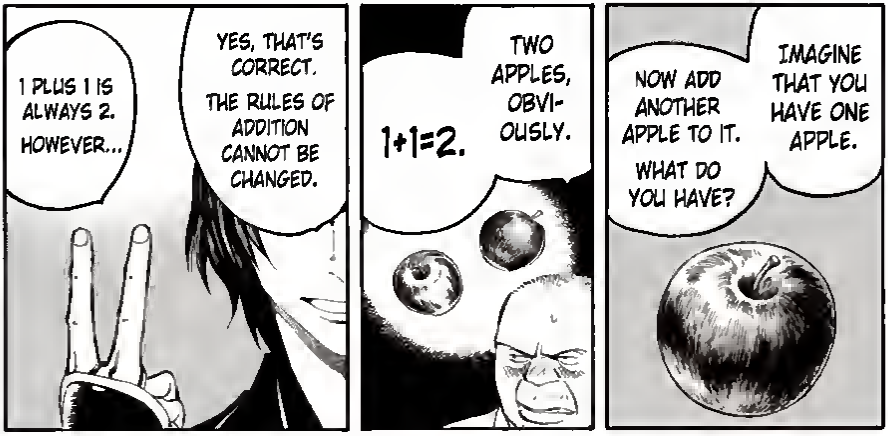
WHEN YOU CURSE SOMEONE, YOU SHOULD DIG TWO GRAVES.
BUT CURSES ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

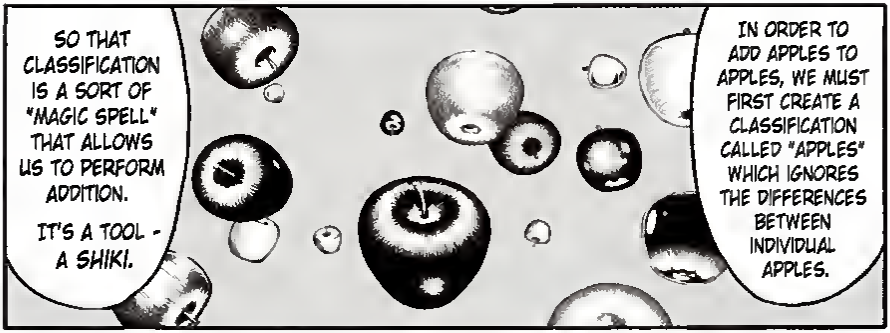
...YOU'RE SAYING THAT MY SHIKI WAS REVERSED!?
BUT... BUT WHO COULD DO SUCH A THING!?

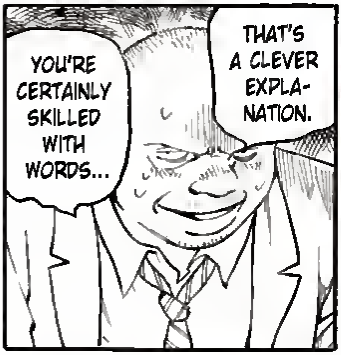

JUST LIKE IN THE OLD STORY, YOUR CARELESS CURSE HAS BACKFIRED ON YOU...


OH...SO YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, BUT GODS AND DEMONS ARE FINE, HUH?
IT'S A DEMON OR SPIRIT THAT'S USED AS AN ONMYOUJI'S FAMILIAR.
...WHAT'S A SHIKI?

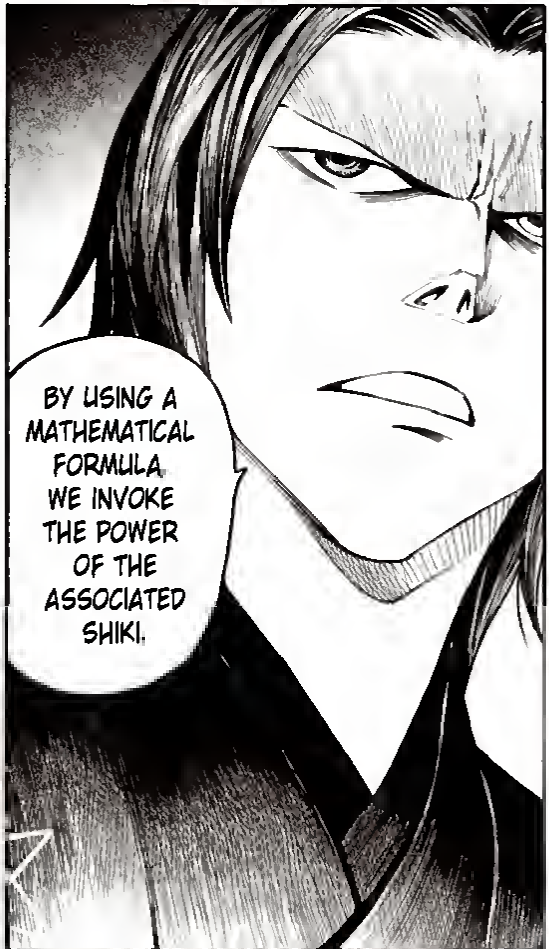

FOR INSTANCE, A MATHEMATICAL FORMULA IS A TYPE OF SHIKI.
A SHIKI IS MERELY A SORT OF MENTAL TOOL CREATED FOR HUMAN CONVENIENCE.
YOUR DAUGHTER'S EXPLANATION IS A BIT METAPHORICAL.


1 PLUS 1 IS ALWAYS 2. HOWEVER...
YES, THAT'S CORRECT. THE RULES OF ADDITION CANNOT BE CHANGED.
1+1=2.
TWO APPLES, OBVIOUSLY.
IMAGINE THAT YOU HAVE ONE APPLE.
NOW ADD ANOTHER APPLE TO IT. WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

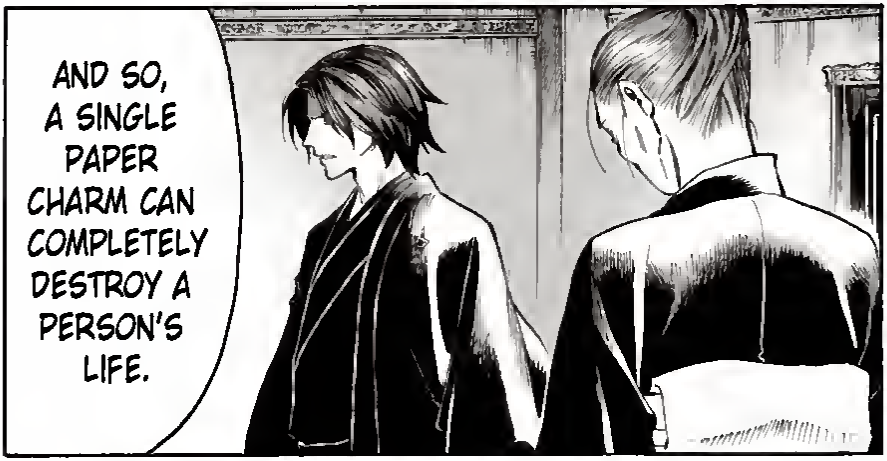

SO THAT CLASSIFICATION IS A SORT OF "MAGIC SPELL" THAT ALLOWS US TO PERFORM ADDITION.
IT'S A TOOL - A SHIKI.
IN ORDER TO ADD APPLES TO APPLES, WE MUST FIRST CREATE A CLASSIFICATION CALLED "APPLES" WHICH IGNORES THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL APPLES.


YOU'RE CERTAINLY SKILLED WITH WORDS...
THAT'S A CLEVER EXPLA-NATION.

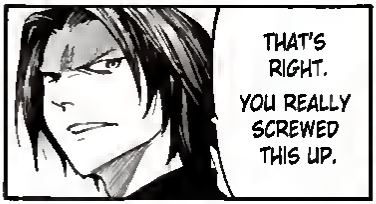
He's waiting for Kyou-gokudou to trip up and contradict himself.
But it's no use...

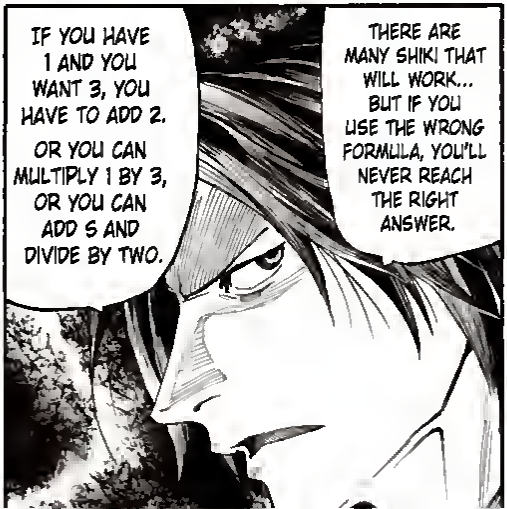

BY USING A MATHEMATICAL FORMULA, WE INVOKE THE POWER OF THE ASSOCIATED SHIKI.

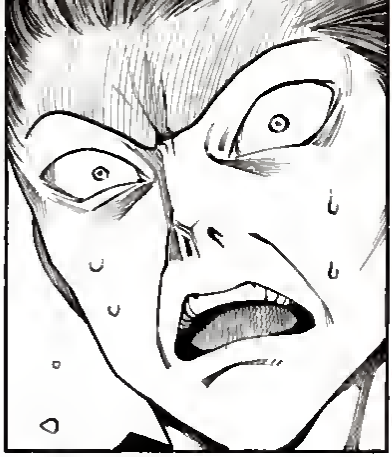
HOWEVER, IF SOMEONE ONLY SEES THE RESULTS AND DOESN'T KNOW THE FORMULA THAT WAS USED, IT CAN SEEM LIKE MAGIC.
THE OUTCOME OF THE FORMULA IS CONSISTENT AND PREDICTABLE.


AND SO, A SINGLE PAPER CHARM CAN COMPLETELY DESTROY A PERSON'S LIFE.

THAT I USED THE WRONG SHIKI?
SO YOU'RE SAYING...

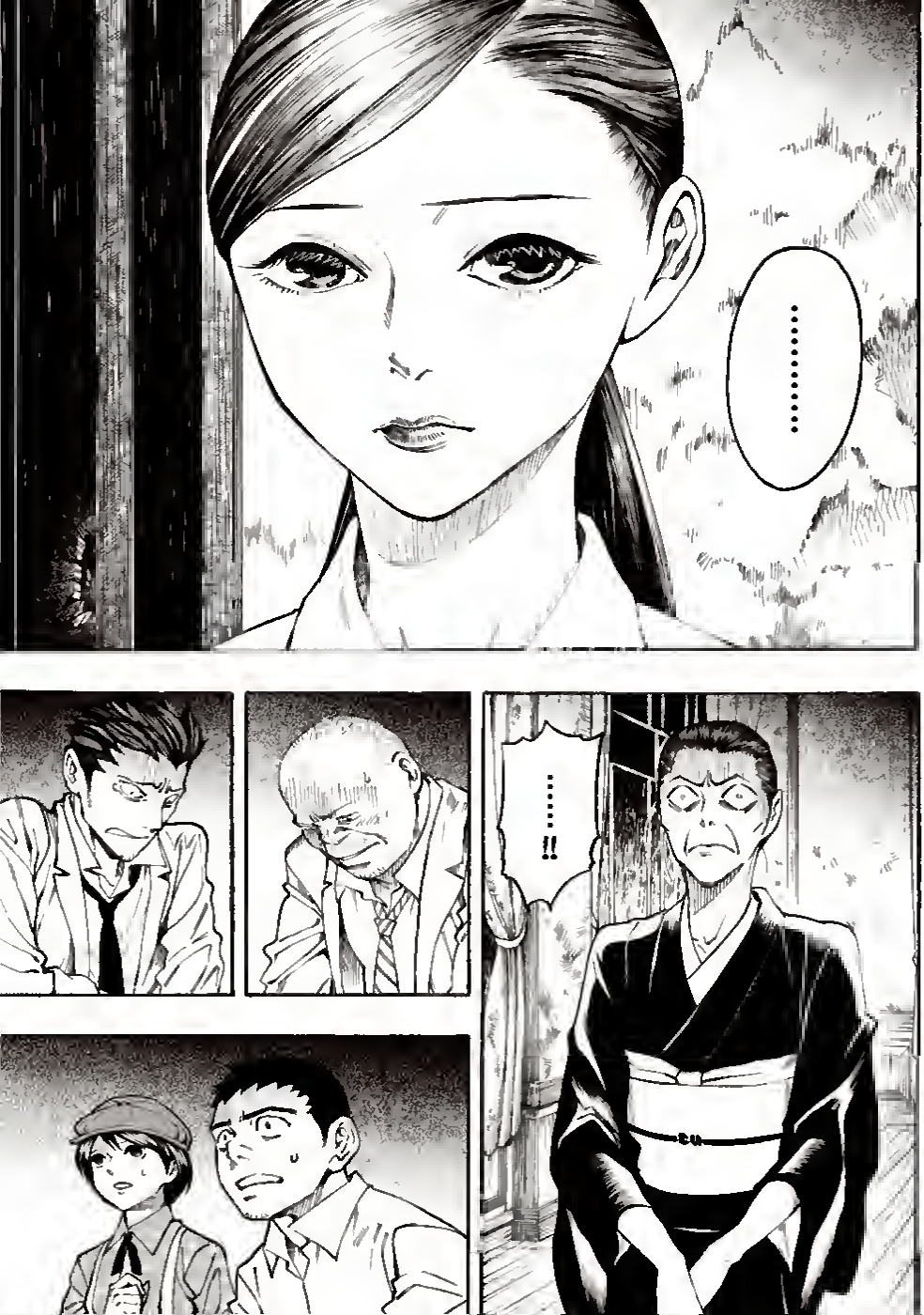

THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU REALLY SCREWED THIS UP.


IF YOU HAVE 1 AND YOU WANT 3, YOU HAVE TO ADD 2.
OR YOU CAN MULTIPLY 1 BY 3, OR YOU CAN ADD 5 AND DIVIDE BY TWO.
THERE ARE MANY SHIKI THAT WILL WORK... BUT IF YOU USE THE WRONG FORMULA, YOU'LL NEVER REACH THE RIGHT ANSWER.

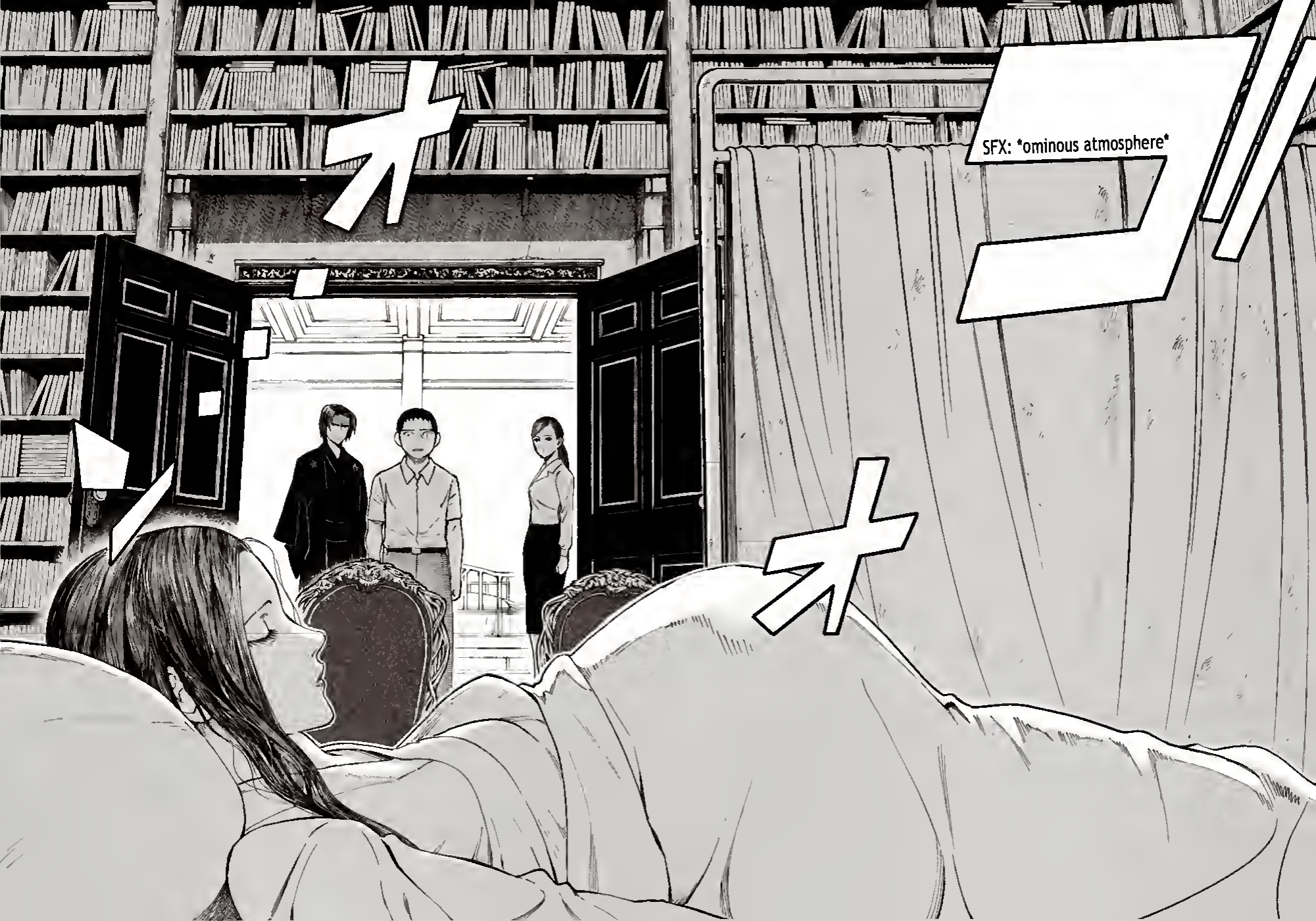


YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S MISERY.

MAKIO-SAN, THE MAN YOU CURSED, IS NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD...
AND SO YOUR SHIKI TURNED AROUND AND CURSED YOU INSTEAD.


……
……!!

...WELL, NOW THAT THE INTRO-DUCTIONS ARE OVER,
LET US PROCEED, SEKIGUCHI-KUN.
LEAD THE WAY.
Why do I have to go first?
UH... OKAY...
WHISPER
...I HOPE YOU WON'T REGRET THIS.
.....


SFX: *ominous atmosphere*

But today...
It's exactly like it was the other day.
The smell of anti-septic, the oppressive chill..
We're going to break the Kuonji curse.
I'm going to break Ryouko-san's curse!